

CERCOSPORA LEAF SPOT OF EUCALYPTUS

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Eucalyptus L'Her is native to Australia and the Malayan region. The genus contains 500 or more species with some attaining a height of 300 feet. They are utilized for timber and some as landscape trees in semitropical and warm temperate regions. Many Eucalyptus species are grown in California (1), whereas, approximately 8 are grown in Florida. Eucalyptus cinerea F. Muell. ex Benth., the silver dollar Eucalyptus, is the most cold hardy of those growing in Florida with Gainesville and Jacksonville as its most northerly limits of distribution.

A leaf spot of the silver dollar Eucalyptus, caused by Cercospora epicoccoides Cooke and Massee (3), occurs rather commonly in Florida with unpublished reports dating from 1964 (2) and on other species of Eucalyptus as early as 1962 (2). There appear to be no published reports of this leaf spot disease on any species of Eucalyptus in Florida or from any other part of the United States. There are only scanty reports of this disease, including occurrences in Argentina (4,5) and New South Wales (6).

SYMPTOMS. Leaf spots are chestnut brown, irregular necrotic lesions which vary in size from pin-point spots to 12 mm, often more numerous on the lower surface of the leaves. As the lesions enlarge, they become light brown with a dark brown border and often coalesce to form large necrotic areas which become greyish tan in color (fig. 1), sometimes enveloping the entire leaf.

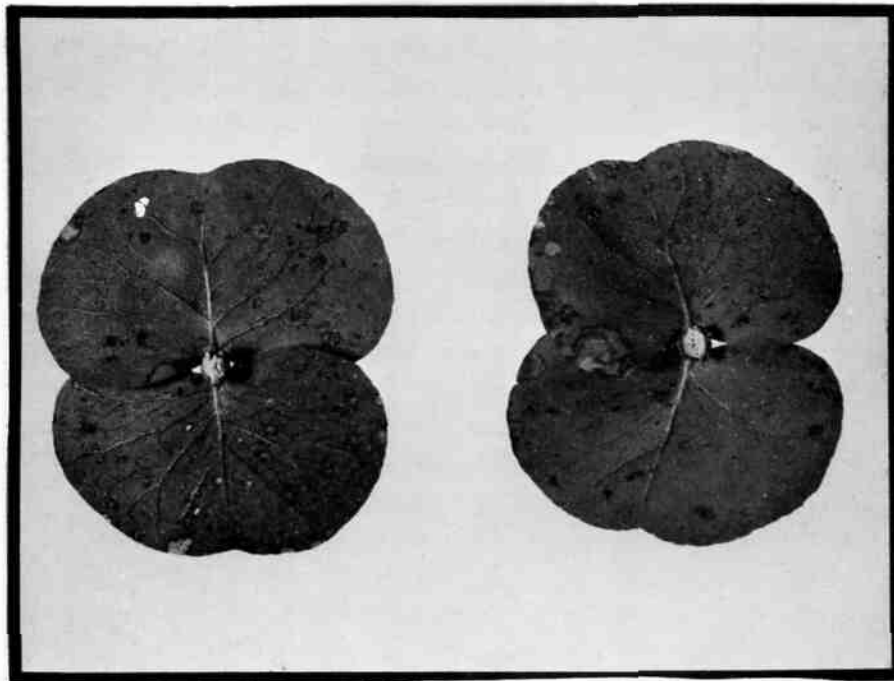


Fig. 1. Cercospora leaf spot of Eucalyptus cinerea.

CONTROL. Control procedures based on research have not yet been established for this disease. However, *Cercospora* leaf spots on other plant hosts have been successfully controlled with the fungicides Benlate, Daconil, or Dithane M-45.

References Cited

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